



National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

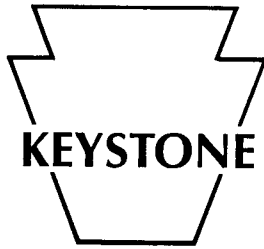
717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

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Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm

MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 59 percent or 495.4 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2004-2005 season, up 7 percent from last year's production. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 79 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$391.3 million, up 3 percent from the 2003-2004 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 385 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$344 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 78 percent or 110 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$47 million for the 2004-2005 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 838.1 million pounds, virtually unchanged from both the 2003-04 season and the 2002-03 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 59 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at \$862 million, down 2 percent from the 2003-04 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 100.5 million pounds, up 4 percent from last season but down 9 percent from the 2002-03 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 12 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom

crop value of sales for the 2004-05 season is \$130.1 million, 15 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2004-05 is \$46.1 million, up 14 percent from the 2003-04 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 8.613 million pounds for the 2004-05 season, up 15 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$3.21, is down 3 cents from 2003-04. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 5.1 million pounds, is up 22 percent from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 1.33 million pounds, down 20 percent from last season.

Growers sold 35.0 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2004-05 growing season, down 1 percent from the 2003-04 season. Out of the 35.0 million pounds, 6.01 million pounds, or 17 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.31 million pounds, or 23 percent sold as certified organic during the 2003-04 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 74 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2004-05 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 35, up 4 from the previous season. These growers represent 13 percent of the 275 total mushroom producers.

PENNSYLVANIA & US: AGARICUS MUSHROOM SALES BY TYPE JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2005

Year	Fresh Market			Processing			All Sales			Growers
	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	
	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	1,000 Lbs.	Dollars	1,000 Dols.	Number
2002-03										
Pennsylvania	357.293	0.864	308.701	104.111	0.547	56.949	461.404	0.792	365.650	77
United States	697,248	1.120	778,307	139,150	0.558	77,676	836,398	1.020	855,983	127
2003-04										
Pennsylvania	363.305	0.903	328.064	101.322	50647	51.269	464.627	0.816	379.333	76
United States	703.496	1.140	805.200	137.666	0.532	73.205	841.162	1.040	878.405	125
2004-05										
Pennsylvania	385.473	0.893	344.227	109.959	0.428	47.062	495.432	0.790	391.289	76
United States	696.319	1.140	796.604	141.764	0.463	65.699	838.083	1.030	862.303	118

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUGUST 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Aug 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005 ¹	Aug 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005 ¹
Dollars							
Corn	Bu.	2.90	2.56	2.40	2.34	2.11	1.89
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.19	3.15	3.11
Oats.....	Bu.	1.73	1.58	1.49	1.32	1.59	1.53
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.77	2.38	2.75
Hay, Dry All	Ton	129.00	127.00	130.00	92.20	99.70	99.70
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	145.00	148.00	146.00	99.30	109.00	109.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	114.00	116.00	115.00	71.90	75.90	74.80
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	.202	⁵	.208	.268	.153	.202
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.08	⁶	⁶	5.77	8.69	7.51
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	53.70	53.40	50.90	54.70	53.80	51.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	81.00	78.60	77.30	91.00	88.40	88.00
Calves	Cwt.	110.00	120.00	116.00	131.00	132.00	131.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	53.60	47.40	46.90	55.80	50.30	50.50
Sows	Cwt.	42.60	36.00	36.50	46.90	37.70	38.60
Eggs ³	Doz.	.370	.320	.260	.337	.326	.257
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	16.50	16.30	-	14.90	14.90	14.80
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	14.40	13.80	-	14.20	14.20	14.00
All	Cwt.	16.50	16.30	16.30	14.90	14.80	14.70
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1,800.00	-	-	1,830.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁶ Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

AUGUST FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASED 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 117, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.8 percent) from July. The Crop Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received lower commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and sweet corn. Higher prices were received for lettuce, peaches, strawberries, and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and calves offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points (2.5 percent) from August 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 120, is unchanged from last month but decreased 3 points (2.4 percent) from August 2004.

Feed Grains & Hay: The August index is 99, down 5.7 percent from last month and 9.2 percent below August 2004. The corn price, at \$1.89 per bushel, is down 22 cents from last month and 45 cents below August 2004. The all hay price, at \$99.70 per ton, is unchanged from July but up \$7.50 from last August.

Fruits & Nuts: The August index, at 148, is up 1.4 percent from July and 112 percent higher than August 2004. Price increases for peaches, strawberries, and apples more than offset price decreases for grapes, lemons, and oranges.

Commercial Vegetables: The August index, at 127, is up 5.0 percent from last month but 8.0 percent below August 2004. Price increases during August for lettuce, snap beans, and broccoli more than offset price declines for sweet corn, onions, and cantaloupes.

Dairy Products: The August index, at 113, is unchanged from a month ago but 0.9 percent lower than a year ago. The August all milk price at \$14.70 is down 10 cents from last month and 20 cents from August 2004. The

fluid grade milk price is down 10 cents and the manufactured grade milk price is 20 cents below last month.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS JULY 31, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 510,000 bushels on July 31, 2005, compared to 404,000 bushels on July 31, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 266,000; Rome with 89,000; and other varieties 77,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 21,420,000 pounds on July 31, 2005, compared to 16,800,000 pounds on July 31, 2004. There were no pear stocks reported in cold storage on July 31, 2005.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork and eggs.

Butter stocks were down 3 percent from last month, and down 10 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down slightly from last month, but up 5 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 10 percent from last month, but up 21 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 29 percent from last month, but up 115 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2005 were up 1 percent from the previous month, but down 9 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 2 percent from the previous month, but down 4 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down slightly from last month, and down 15 percent from July 31, 2004.

**HIRED WORKERS UP 2 PERCENT,
WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

There were 1,332,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 930,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 402,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$8.74 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.78 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

**FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE
RATES, WEEK OF July 10-16, 2005 ¹**

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	50	930
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More	40	656
149 Days or Less.....	10	274
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	39.1	40.6
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	9.79	9.39
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	8.90	8.78
Field	8.71	8.62
Livestock.....	9.37	9.25

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ³ Excludes AK.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, JULY 2005

Variety	July 31, 2004					July 31, 2005				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	0	2	7	60	69	0	0	9	257	266
Stayman.....	0	1	0	1	2	n/p	0	0	0	0
Rome	0	11	2	59	72	n/p	n/p	14	75	89
Red Delicious.....	0	46	1	57	104	n/p	n/p	5	33	38
Golden Delicious...	0	2	4	101	107	n/p	9	7	20	36
Gala	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/p	0	0	0
McIntosh	0	2	0	2	4	n/p	n/p	0	0	0
Fuji	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	4	0	0	4
Other ²	0	5	7	34	46	1	36	14	26	77
Total.....	0	69	21	314	404	1	49	49	411	510

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES, JULY 31, 2005

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	July 31, 2004	June 30, 2005	July 31, 2005
PENNSYLVANIA			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	865,000	336,000	2,100,000
Controlled Atmosphere.....	15,935,000	24,612,000	19,320,000
Total Apples	16,800,000	24,948,000	21,420,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	0	0	0
Other Varieties	0	0	0
Total Pears	0	0	0
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	3,120,000	13,494,000	13,419,000
Controlled Atmosphere.....	271,174,000	845,302,000	433,693,000
Total Apples	274,294,000	858,796,000	447,112,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	27,470,000	238,000	6,538,000
Other Varieties	8,275,000	14,130,000	513,000
Total Pears	35,745,000	14,368,000	7,051,000

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jul 2004	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Jul 2004	Jun 2005	Jul 2005
Layers	Thous.	24,139	22,988	23,045	342,479	341,484	340,184
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,357	2,340	2,382	2,207	2,151	2,222
Eggs Produced.....	Million	569	538	549	7,557	7,346	7,560
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,491	4,769	4,227	34,919	34,537	35,310
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,747	14,011	14,398	806,658	796,001	807,654
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	25,013	24,253	24,504

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during July 2005 totaled 549 million eggs, down 4 percent from the 569 million produced in July 2004. The total number of layers averaged 23.0 million during July, down 5 percent from one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,382 eggs during the month, an increase of 25 eggs from July 2004. Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2005 totaled 4.23 million, down 6 percent from the 4.49 million hatched the previous July. The cumulative egg-type hatch for the period January through July 2005 was at 33.9 million, down 7 percent from the same period one year ago. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.4 million during July 2005, up 5 percent from the 13.7 million hatched during the same month last year. The cumulative broiler-type hatch for January through July 2005 was at 99.7 million, 10 percent more than the 90.8 million hatched during the same period in 2004.

United States' egg production totaled 7.56 billion during July 2005, up slightly from last year. The total number of layers during July averaged 340 million, down 1 percent from the average number of layers during July 2004. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,222 eggs, up 15 eggs from July 2004. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during July totaled 35.3 million, up 1 percent from July 2004. Broiler-type hatch

totalled 808 million, up slightly from the previous July. There were 24.5 million turkey poults placed in the United States during July 2005, down 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during July 2005 totaled 90.0 million pounds, dressed weight basis, down 5 percent from July 2004. Beef production, at 83.1 million pounds live weight, was down 2 percent from July 2004. Total head slaughtered was 68,800, down 6 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 51 pounds to 1,207 pounds. Veal production was 4.8 million pounds live weight, 4 percent less than a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 11,500 head, was down 15 percent, and average live weight increased 46 pounds to 418 pounds. Pork production, at 50.9 million pounds live weight, was down 7 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 210,000, was down 6 percent from July of 2004. Average live weight was 242 pounds, down 1 pound compared to July of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 428,000 pounds live weight, down 21 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,200, down 30 percent from July of last year. The average live weight increased 11 pounds from July 2004 to 101 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JUL 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	90.0	3.616
Cattle.....	Thous. Hd.	68.8	2.718
	Mil. Lbs. Live	83.1	3.410
Calves	Thous. Hd.	11.5	59
	Mil. Lbs. Live	4.8	21
Hogs.....	Thous. Hd.	210.0	7,662
	Mil. Lbs. Live	50.9	2,026
Sheep & Lambs.....	Thous. Hd.	4.2	201
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.4	27

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Harrisburg PA 17110-9405
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
Pennsylvania Statistical Office
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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